X.

FROM THE COUNTY RECORDS.

At April Term, 1826, two gentlemen were indicted for horse racing on the public road.

Against another for retailing spiritous liquors by the small measures without a license therefor.

A list of the rates fixed for ordinaries: Whiskey by the half pint 12½c, French brandy half pint 25c, rum per gill 25c, apple brandy 12½c, peach brandy 18¾c, wines 25c, diet by the meal 25c, grain by the gallon 12½c, hay for 24 hours 12½c, lodging 12c.

The crop of old wolf scalps for 1825–6 amounted to twenty-one at $5 each.

James Brindly is allowed $7 for traveling to Lewisburg for stovepipes.

Surveyors of the county roads were allowed 6½ cents for each day necessarily employed: William Brock, 62½c for 10 days; James Waugh 25c for 4 days, etc.

June, 1827 a levy of $49 was laid and John Bradshaw and Samuel Hogsett commissioners were appointed to let out the erection of the public stocks and pillory.

The court seems to have the power to license preach-

ers and gentlemen to celebrate the rites of matrimony by taking a bond of $1500.

Everyone has heard of Major Jacob Warwick's famous servant Ben who accompanied him on all his warring, hunting and surveying trips, and to whom his master granted his freedom. At the August court the following order was entered in reference to his life and character:

"Ben, a man of color, who is entitled to his freedom under the last will and testament of Jacob Warwick, deceased, bearing date on the 7th day of March, 1818, of record in the Clerk's Office of this county. This day motioned the court, (the commonwealth's attorney being present) for permission to remain in this county: whereupon, it is the opinion of the court, that the said Ben be permitted to remain and reside for his general good conduct and also for acts of extraordinary merit, it appearing to their satisfaction that the said Ben hath given reasonable notice of this motion.

"The acts of extraordinary merit, upon which the order of the court is founded, are the following:

"It appearing from the evidence of Mr Robert Gay that at an early period when the county of Bath (now Pocahontas) was invaded by the Indians, he protected with fidelity the possessions of his master, and assisted in defending the inhabitants from the tomahawk and scalping knife.

"In addition to this public service it appears from the evidence of Messrs Waugh and P. Bruffey that he rendered most essential service to his master in saving his life on divers occasions.

"Upon these meritorious acts the court grounded their order."

March 1828, William Brock, prisoner for debt, confessed the amount of his debts, $30, and all parties consenting, he took the benifit of the act for the relief of insolvent debtors, which consisted of his giving up a schedule of all his property, and the sheriff is directed to release him from custody when he shall have delivered the property named in the schedule.

April, 1828—The county is laid off into three districts. The upper end as low down as Sitlingtons Creek, then down to the mouth of Beaver Lick Creek, then to the lower end of the county.

June Term, 1829—County levy $341.37½. Six hundred and eighty-one tithables at 50 cents each. Wolf scalps, eleven old ones at $8 each, and four young ones at $4 each—$104, or nearly one third of the expenses of the county. The wolves seemed to have taken up the greater part of the page space in the early history of our county, and to have taken a very large part of the revenue. That the citizens had these destructive creatures on the run is apparent from the records. The price upon their heads rises by stages—$4 $6, $8, $10, $12,—and finally reaches the princely sum of $15, at which price two were proved in 1855. About that time a number of old fox scalps were proved at $1 each. From 1829 up, the young wolf scalp was worth half as much as an old one would bring from the public.

September court an appraisement bill was filed which contained an item which has passed out of such lists forever: "To two black women, Delph and Daffie, $71.00." These must have been very old slaves,

or of little value from some other cause.

In another appraisement bill filed at the October Court is a list of slaves: One black man named Bill willed to be sold, $200; one black woman named Nancy, $250; one black girl named Eveline, $75; one black man named Aaron, $300r one black man named Lewis, $150; one black boy named Peter, $275, one black girl Rachel, $100; one black child Charlotte $40.

In this appraisement bill sheep are rated at $1 a head, cows $10, four year old steers $10, horses $35 to $45.

The Messinbird negroes were liberated by their master, Henry Messinbird, who settled on the mountain overlooking the Levels, and to whom he left his property and granted them freedom. Why he was here will be always a mystery. He may have been a fugitive from justice. He was a man of great scholarly attainments.

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